Katie McHale

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**Double vs. Triple**

**Problem**

Most parents expect their kids to study hard all day, every day in college. However, a big part of the college experience is socializing. The number one person that a student has to socialize with is the roommate. The roommates are the deciding factor on whether a student’s year will be challenging or fun. Is it better to have one roommate or two? In this paper, the question will be addressed with background information from academic journals. Then I will present my findings and come to a conclusion.

**Background**

Just getting one roommate has its difficulties. Getting along with a stranger is difficult, so sometimes students go to roommate-matching sites. The matching sites only work if the student is honest. However, sometimes students put, “misrepresentations of themselves on roommate-matching questionnaires” (Counter, 2012). When one roommate is expecting the other to be a certain way it is frustrating when they are not who they say they are, creating more tension in a dorm room.

Being put into a triple room is usually a last resort. Even high authorities in the universities realize that the situation is not exemplary. Hal Haynes, Dickinson University Vice President says, “I believe anytime you get into the triple mode, you diminish the overall experience for the students and it’s not ideal”(Dickinson Press, 2011). Coming into college, never having meet your roommates, the idea of sharing a room with two other students is not favorable. The lack of space can agitate, bring down their excitement for the year.

Usually when tripling in dorms occur it is because the school has too many students. In a study done at a University confirmed that “overcrowding and social density have significant effects on the academic performance of the respondents”(Justice, Mwantu, 2013). Having more than one person in a dorm room is distracting and causes students academics to go down.

How well do Bloomsburg University students get along with their roommates? Does it matter if they are doubled or tripled?

**Method**

To answer the questions above I interviewed two people about their experiences in their dorms. I asked certain questions that I believed would help me understand the differences between doubles and triples. One of the interviewees was doubled and the other was tripled. I chose to interview two people that I thought were different form each other to get different viewpoints.

**Findings**

My interviewees were person 1 and person 2. Person 1 is majoring in mass communications. Person 2 is in the major special education and early education with a concentration in deaf education. Person 2 wanted to come here because she thought Bloomsburg University had a good education program and her mom went to college here. Person 1 decided to come here because she got denied from her other top choices.

The first question I asked about dorm life is where they live and if they are doubled and tripled. Person 2 lives in Columbia Hall and is doubled. Person 1 lives in Elwell and is tripled. The next question I asked is if they want to be doubled or tripled. Person 2 had a short answer of no, but person 1 had more detail. Person 1 said, “Tripled. I get along with my roommates so it makes it fun”. This answers suggest that being tripled is only fun if you can get along with your roommates.

The next thing we addressed was the advantages and disadvantages of being doubled or tripled. Person 2 said the advantages that “you both get your own space that you can keep to yourself” and said of the disadvantages that “you make a connection with one person instead of two”. Person 1 had similar views on being tripled. Person 1 said the advantages are “you get to make more friends” and does not believe there are any disadvantages. Both realize that being tripled has an advantage of making one more connection than you would if you are doubled.

(1)The next question I asked had to do with their roommates; the question was if they get along with their roommates. (2) Person 2 said that she gets along “very well” and they “are like best friends. Person 1 gets along “really well”. (3) This is an example of people not caring how many roommates they have, but who their roommates are.

Lastly, I asked if they think it is easier to be with one roommate or two. Person 2 said, “one, because it is less people to have an issue with”. Person 1 said, “Two. It is easier to start a conversation and … talk to”. Both are right. If there is an issue it is easier to solve with just two opinions, instead of three. Person 1 is also right though, if you have to talk it is easier, because you don’t have to be the one talking all the time and have one more person to share similarities with.

**Conclusion**

Based on the information I collected I realized it is not necessarily how many roommates a person has, but who their roommates are. Both of the people I interviewed said they liked their situation. I believe they like their situation because they like their roommates. Since both get along well with their roommates, this suggests to me that Bloomsburg University is lucky to have most roommate assignments get along well. Although I interviewed two people who get along with their roommates very well does not mean that everyone does. Usually there is an issue between roommates, for example space or quiet time. To insure that this happens less and less often I go back to my background information, where I mention roommate-matching sites. Universities should ask students to be as honest as possible and if they can’t be honest, to avoid going to roommate-matching sites. To further my research I ask the questions: How does being put into a triple effect a students mentality? Is there a way to avoid tripling?

**References**

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